



News From

JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DOYLE KICKS-OFF STAND DOWN 2000

County Executive Jack Doyle today kicked-off STAND DOWN 2000, Monroe County's initiative for veterans who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. The event will take place on Saturday (September 30th) at the War Memorial and partners Monroe County with the Upstate New York Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare Network, state agencies and other private partners.

"STAND DOWN is an event that shows veterans who have come upon hard times that we have not forgotten their past service and that our community is willing to give them something back," said Doyle. "This event helps support the members of our community who served our nation during its time of need, and are now themselves in need. The goal of STAND DOWN is to offer a hand up, not a handout."

Homeless and at-risk veterans and their families will be provided with services including: medical treatment, dental screening, haircuts, eye exams, employment information, hot food, warm clothing, emergency housing and veterans benefits. As a departure from past STAND DOWN events, this year's effort will be a one-day event, timed to provide support prior to the cold weather months. While the event is specifically for veterans and their families, no one requiring services will be turned away.

STAND DOWN 2000 teams the Monroe County Departments of Veterans Services, Social Services, Health, Office for the Aging, Mental Health and Youth Bureau with the Upstate New York VA Healthcare Network, State Department of Labor, Saint Mary's Hospital, University of Rochester School of Medicine, AIDS Rochester, the American Red Cross, the American Legion, the Salvation Army, Korean War Veterans, and Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 20) among others.

"STAND DOWN 2000 represents the Upstate New York VA Healthcare Network's on-going commitment to assist homeless and at-risk veterans and their families in the greater Rochester metropolitan area," said Robert Van Keuren who is coordinating the event for the Network. "STAND DOWN offers an opportunity for veterans and their families to take advantage of a number of services in one location. Veterans have sacrificed much for our country and STAND DOWN reaches out to assist them in their time of need."

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“The partners involved with STAND DOWN 2000 show the level of cooperation among government agencies, service providers, veterans groups and the private sector to provide critical intervention services for homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. Our goal is to give the necessary support to allow these individuals to once again contribute to our community. Everyone, and especially our veterans, deserves the opportunity to support themselves,” said Doyle.

This will be the fourth year for STAND DOWN, which was initiated by County Executive Doyle to replace his successful pilot event, R&R '96. The STAND DOWN concept has been highly successful nationally and originated in San Diego, California.

In addition to the support of agencies, groups and individual volunteers, Monroe County's STAND DOWN 2000 is generously co-sponsored by: Western New York Veterans Housing Coalition, Frontier, DeCarolis Trucking, RTS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Schering Corporation, Rural Metro Medical Services, the Salvation Army, and the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 20) Thrift Store.

In addition to providing health care and other intervention services the event is designed to allow participants and volunteers (many of whom are veterans themselves) to re-experience the camaraderie and friendships they experienced while in the service.

Free transportation will be provided for veterans by RTS and shuttles will also be stopping at various sites throughout the community to bring those in need of service to the War Memorial.

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*For further information, call:
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